

Aundrayah Shermer

Southwest Blindness Skills Specialist beginning of Fiscal Year 2013 to current

Report for Blind Task Force meeting November 12, 2013

Note: For the purpose of this report the number of contacts includes direct face to face meeting in the school district or scheduled phone conference. It does NOT include any follow up phone calls or emails. The number of contacts is in parenthesis after each district name.

1. Goal: Support local school districts in providing services for students who are blind or visually impaired. The Following school districts have been served in this activity since beginning of FY13: Springfield (10), Marshfield (15), Fair Grove (12), Willard (7), Logan-Rogersville (10), Forsyth (6), Branson (6), Reed Springs (12), Spokane (22), Nixa (18), Ozark (2), Sparta (7), Ava (1), Mt. Vernon (4), Carthage (2), Bethany (3), Neosho (4), Buffalo (12), Bolivar (4), Clinton (9), Willow Springs (2), Mtn. View/Birch Tree (10), Mtn. Grove (1), Conway (7), Lebanon (10), Laquey (4), Plato (2), Waynesville (6), Thayer (2), West Plains (2), Monett (3), Aurora (10), Marionville (2), Verona (1), Billings (1), Republic (9), Clever (5), Lamar (6), California (3), Greenfield (6), Blue Springs (3), Raytown (2), Pierce City (3), Cassville (3), Purdy (1), Southwest R-5 Washburn (1), Webb City (4), Camdenton (2), Liberty (2), Kansas City (2), North Kansas City (1), CCVI (4), Independence (1), Malden (1). Services to these school districts includes: reviewing IEP's and providing recommendations for programming, writing measurable IEP goals, identifying a service provider for VI/O&M services, write MO AT grants based on identifying and demonstrating various AT equipment, recommendations of appropriate assessments for students who are visually impaired for either initial evaluation, on-going assessment or part of three-year re-evaluations, demonstrating teaching techniques, providing support to newly certified VI teachers on teaching braille, abacus, and AT, demonstrating O&M techniques to paraprofessionals, sped teachers, and other school personnel, observing instruction and providing feedback, provide resources to school administrators on best practices for instruction of VI students, review records and eye reports to determine if qualify as VI, provide information on resources for VI/O&M instructors working for the district, provide resources and technical support to classroom teachers and sped teachers in districts where no VI or O&M, provide information and assist with recruiting VI/O&M for MSU certification program in order to meet needs of district. Other services as requested and outlined in scope of work. Total number of contacts since beginning of FY 13 to current: 288
2. Goal: Provide time engaged in direct services. The following school districts have been served in this activity since the beginning of FY13: Fair Grove (12), Nixa (14), Sparta (6), Aurora (2), Republic (3), Mtn View/Birch Tree (10), Reed Springs (10), Clever (1), Logan-Rogersville (4), Highlandville (8), Spokane (15) Marshfield (10), Lebanon (6), Willard (5), Marionville (2), Halfway (1). The BSS assisted with direct services as requested by school district because they did not have a VI teacher and/or an O&M Specialist to provide IEP minutes for students identified as visually impaired in their district. In addition, these districts participated in Community O&M lessons at Missouri State University and the BSS assisted with instruction and demonstration of instructional techniques for these districts. Total number of contacts since beginning of FY 13 to current: 109
3. Goal: Attend IEP meetings at school district request. The following school districts have been served in this activity since the beginning of FY13: Nixa (6), Springfield (1), Marshfield (4), Willow Springs (1), Fair Grove (3), Republic (1), Aurora (1), Sparta (2), Monett (1), Reed Springs (2), Branson (1), Willard (2), Buffalo (1), Forsyth (2). These contacts include invitations to the IEP meeting by the school district, Vision Teacher, O&M specialist, or parent. Total number of contacts since beginning of FY 13 to current: 28

4. Goal: Develop in-service trainings/workshops: The following trainings and workshops have been completed since beginning of FY13: Designing and Modifying for the Regular Education Teacher (2), Role of the Paraprofessional (2), Activity Based Programming for Students with Additional Disabilities (1), Family InFunmation Night (1), Southwest Kids in Action (10), Southwest Vision Professionals group (8). Kansas City Area Vision Professionals group (2), Community Based Orientation and Mobility for all regional school districts (32), (Community Orientation and Mobility events are an opportunity for teachers and paraprofessionals who are serving the students who are visually impaired to come to SW Missouri for trainings. The teachers travel to the MSU with their students and while the students have O&M training the teachers participate in effective practices meetings related to vision and expanded core curriculum topics presented by the SW BSS). Total number of trainings/workshops since beginning of FY 13 to current: 58
5. Goal: Trends / Issues from district / teacher contacts. Examples of what districts have asked for include the following topics since beginning of FY13: Large print, Braille textbooks, where to locate a teacher of the visually impaired, where to locate an Orientation & Mobility instructor, how to serve students with multiple disabilities, assistive technology – hands on exposure and training, how to use a functional vision assessment for educational programming, accommodations for a pre-school environment, preparing an IEP for a VI student, statewide resources available to families with a VI student, one on one mentoring for their VI teacher/O&M Specialist, request in-service training for teachers, AT training and demonstration, assist with MO AT grants, assessment questions.
6. Goal: Assessment Services. The following school districts were provided Functional Vision Assessments since beginning of FY13: Republic (2), Fair Grove (1), Reed Springs (2), Sparta (2), Highlandville (1), Mtn. View/Birch Tree (1). The following districts were provided Orientation and Mobility Assessments directly: Mtn View/Birch Tree (2), Forsyth (1), Fair Grove (1), Sparta (2), Springfield (1), Willard (2), Republic (2), Spokane (1), Nixa (4). Total number of assessments since beginning of FY 13 to current: 25
7. Goal: Provide in-service training for classroom teachers. The Following School Districts have been served in this activity since beginning of FY13: Springfield (3), Marshfield (2), Fair Grove (3), Willard (4), Logan-Rogersville (3), Forsyth (1), Branson (2), Reed Springs (4), Spokane (4), Nixa (8), Ozark (2), Mt. Vernon (1), Carthage (2), Bethany (1), Neosho (2), Buffalo (7), Bolivar (1), Clinton (2), Willow Springs (1), Mtn. View/Birch Tree (4), Mtn. Grove (1), Conway (2), Lebanon (2), Laquey (1), Plato (1), Waynesville (1), Sparta (2), Monet (1), Aurora (1), Republic (3) and Clever (1). In addition, teachers and other interested parties were provided information about the following program: Missouri Assistive Technology Reimbursement grants, TAP-I program, Missouri School for the Blind, Local and National Braille Resources, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, The Braille Narration Center, Wolfner Library, APH materials center, Seedlings, Lighthouse for the Blind, Camp Barnabas, and other Blindness Skills Specialists offerings throughout the state and web related resources. Total number of contacts since beginning of FY 13 to current: 73
8. Goal: Provide parents with information and resources. Parents from the following districts were in direct contact with SW BSS or participated in Family Information and workshops during FY13: Springfield (10), Marshfield (4), Fair Grove (12), Willard (14), Sparta (4), Buffalo (8), Logan-Rogersville (3),

Forsyth (2), Branson(4), Reed Springs (7), Spokane (10), Highlandville (4) Nixa (18), Ozark (4), Willow Springs (2), Mt. Vernon (1), Mtn. View/Birch Tree (2), Webb City (3), Carthage (1), Joplin (1), Conway (3), Lebanon (2), Aurora (3), Clever (4). Total number of contacts with parents since beginning of FY 13 to current: 126

9. Goal: Provide assistance in reviewing the CTB Braille/large print Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) style guide. The Following was completed in FY13: Travel to Jefferson City to assist with MAP review LP and Braille for Grades 3-8.
10. Goal: Serve as university employee who is full time ACVREP Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist to assist with coordination of O&M Certification program. One of the SW BSS continues to serve in this capacity at Missouri State University as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist who is a full time university employee. Activities since beginning of FY13 include: collaborating with ACVREP for certification and re-certification requirements of current and former students, collaborating with local school districts to recruit students for O&M certification program, collaborate with local, regional, state and out of state agencies and school districts for placement of students to complete required internships and practicum's in Orientation and Mobility, assist students with study groups for national exam, assist the university with ensuring students complete necessary graduate school paperwork, admissions criteria, interviewing of potential students and reviewing application files. Provide information to potential candidates and assist with recruitment activities for O&M program. Help manage DESE funded grant for O&M students. Assist with instruction equivalent to 3 graduate credit hours in the blindfold training course throughout June, July and into August. Organize and plan required training by The Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey. Other duties as assigned by faculty in the programs leading to certification in teaching the visually impaired and orientation and mobility at Missouri State University.
11. Upcoming Workshops/Activities to date into FY14: In August had 49 teachers from SW Missouri and 56 from KC area attend a back to school training for designing and modification of instruction for a student with a visual impairment and role of paraprofessional. Community O&M started on August 16, 2013 and is running every Friday until May 10, 2014. There are 8-10 different SW area school districts coming to Missouri State each Friday. Started KC Area Vision Professionals group and have had 2 meetings since school has started. The first meeting had 13 teachers from KC area schools and the second meeting had 18 teachers attend. We see this as a growing group. Collaboration with Alphapointe, CCVI and KSSB in KC area is critical to get the information out to Vision Professionals in KC area. SW Vision Professionals group has met 2 times will be meeting again later this month. The SW Regional Braille Challenge will be March 1, 2014 at Missouri State University.